



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Committee Report

Committee Name: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Date: July 29, 2010

Co-Chairs: Les Beck

Rick Hunsaker

Scope of committee work:

- 1) Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
- 2) Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
- 3) Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
- 4) Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
- 5) Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

Please list all members that participated in the work of this committee:

| Name | Organization | Email | Phone |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Les Beck | Iowa State Association of Counties | les.beck@linncounty.org | 319-892-5151 |
| Rick Hunsaker | Iowa Association of Regional Councils | rhunsaker@region12coq.org | 712-792-9914 |
| Charles Connerly | University of Iowa | Charles-connerly@uiowa.edu | 319-335-0032 |
| Bret Mills | IDED | Bret.mills@iowa.gov | 515-725-3020 |
| Wayne Peterson | Dept. of Agriculture | wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov | 515-281-5833 |
| Teri Goodman | City of Dubuque | tgoodman@cityofdubuque.org | 563-589-4110 |
| Pamela Myhre | City of Mason City | pmyhre@masoncity.net | 641-421-3626 |
| Paula Mohr | Dept. of Cultural Affairs | paula.mohr@iowa.gov | 515-281-6828 |

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|------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Jessica Harder | Iowa League of Cities | jessicaharder@iowaleague.org | 515-974-5312 |
| David Wilwerding | American Planning Association | dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us | 515-727-7765 |
| Chad Keune | ACB/Ruhl & Ruhl | chad@acbiowa.com | 319-339-8104 |
| Stuart Crine | Dept. of Public Safety | crine@dps.state.ia.us | 515-725-6170 |

Please list all staff and outside advisors that participated in the work of this committee:

| Name | Organization | Email | Phone |
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| Jenna Anderson | Rebuild Iowa Office | jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov | 515-242-5213 |
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| Mickey Carlson | IFA/ISU | michaelc@iastate.edu | 515-491-3980 |
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| Rep. Donovan Olson | State Representative, Democrat | Donovan.olson@legis.state.ia.us | 515-432-8163 |
| Shirley Helgevold | MIDAS | Shelgevold@midascog.net | 515-576-7183 |
| Jeff Hanan | SEIRPC | jhanan@seirpc.com | 319-753-5107 |
| Gerry Schnepf | Keep Iowa Beautiful | gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com | 515-323-6507 |
| Mary Rump | ECICOG | Mary.rump@ecicog.org | 319-365-9941 |
| Bill Freeland | LSA | Bill.freeland@legis.state.ia.us | 515-281-6311 |

Please list experts and interest groups that were consulted in the development of the committee's proposals:

- Land use experts:
 - Jerry Anthony, University of Iowa
- Agricultural and environmental interests: *See above advisors*
- Urban and regional planning experts:
 - Charles Connerly, University of Iowa
 - Brian Ohm, University of Wisconsin- Madison
- Others: *See above advisors*

Committee Assignments for Next Meeting:

- Recruit non-voting committee members and advisors to attend meetings and offer input

Committee Meeting Notes

(Note: Committee documents can be found at
http://rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/meetings.html)

I. Welcome

II. Introductions of Committee Members and guests

III. Committee Discussion: Barriers to planning in Iowa and Existing Tools

- **Barriers**
 - Lack of participation/ interest from smaller communities
 - Lack of incentive to plan
 - Home rule authority in multi-jurisdictional planning
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of understanding of the benefits of planning
 - Lack of understanding of the concept of a comprehensive plan
 - Control and trust concerns with multi-jurisdictional plans
 - Lack of implementation strategy and long-term support
 - Lack of political will to move forward
 - Lack of data for existing conditions and projections
 - Property rights
 - Agricultural interests
- **Existing Tools**
 - Technical Assistance
 - Cogs
 - Universities
 - Iowa APA
 - Consultants
 - State agencies
 - Possible statewide GIS system
 - League of Cities
 - ISAC
 - Limited funding
 - Iowa Planning grant (one-time)
 - IJOBS
 - Other Tools
 - Software like Google Sketch Up, Google Earth, etc.

IV. Committee Discussion- Overcoming Barriers and Filling in the Gaps

- Need to show how planning is relevant to all communities' economic stability (*Chuck Connerly*)
- Need to show that planning is relevant to shrinking communities as well- planning is often only associated with growth (*Donovan Olson*)
- Discuss and educate on exit strategies for dying communities (*John McCurdy*)
- Discuss bigger barriers like jurisdiction and restructuring (*Ruth Randleman*)
- Oversight/ coordination at the state-level for different planning area enforcement (watershed, air quality, etc.) (*Pam Myhre*)
- Sharing the cost and benefit within the region to deal with coordination and competition issues ((*Les Beck*)

- Question: What other state and federal programs require planning? (*Rick Hunsaker*)
 - Hazard Mitigation grants ask about planning but don't necessarily require it (*Brian Schoon*)
 - Not aware of any IDED that require planning (*Bret Mills*)
 - Cultural Affairs evaluates planning efforts informally but doesn't necessarily score with regard to planning (*Paula Mohr*)
 - The Interagency Coordination and Information Sharing Committee is tasked with evaluating state agencies planning requirements in policy and suggesting recommendations for integration of planning efforts. More information will be available when the Committee's survey results are completed. (*Annette Mansheim*)

V. Overview of Brian Ohm's and Jerry Anthony's Presentations (*Rick Hunsaker*)

- **Brian Ohm's Presentation**
 - 1600 plans statewide (cities, counties and townships)
 - 9 regional planning commissions (RPCs)
 - No state planning agency
 - State offers a grant program for planning- weight is given to multi-jurisdictional plans

- RPCs do not review or overlay any local plans- create regional plans from a conglomerate of local plans
- Revenue source- levy for local governments

- **Jerry Anthony's Presentation**

- Hawaii
 - Planning is mandatory
 - All top down
- California
 - Requires planning but offers no money
 - Plans are required to access funds for capital improvements
- Vermont
 - Planning is voluntary
 - Plans are reviewed by a regional body
 - A certain amount of real estate transfer taxes are used for planning
- Oregon
 - Planning is mandatory
 - State reviews and approves plans and has the authority to challenge local amendments to the plan
 - Offers funding
- New Jersey
 - Planning is mandatory
 - Plans are approved at the regional level
- Maine
 - Planning is mandatory
 - State reviews plans but can only comment- comments are not binding
- Rhode Island
 - Planning is mandatory
 - Plans are reviewed and approved by the state
- Georgia
 - Planning is voluntary
 - One amendment every five years
 - Plans are reviewed at the regional level
- Washington
 - Planning is mandatory in fast growing areas and voluntary elsewhere
 - 0.5% of real estate transfer taxes can be used for planning and for capital improvements that fulfill the plan
- Maryland
 - Planning is mandatory
 - Plans are approved at the state-level

- Arizona
 - Planning is mandatory
 - Localities are required to update the plan every 10 years
- Tennessee
 - Planning is mandatory

VI. Workgroup Sessions

[See Workgroup Reports]

VII. Workgroup Report-Outs

- **Workgroup C Summary (*Les Beck*)**
- **Workgroup D Summary (*Rick Hunsaker*)**

VIII. Closing Remarks

IX. Next Meeting

August 11th 1:15- 3:30 (State Library, Conf Room 157)